

APPENDIX No. 3

The total turnover of these societies was:—

In 1901.	£12,080,000
1902.	12,890,000
1903.	14,214,000

And their total production of butter, bacon and eggs:—

In 1901.	£ 9,800,000
1902.	10,570,000
1903.	11,414,000

As the total exports of Denmark during 1903 were somewhat under £20,000,000, it will be seen that the exports of the co-operative societies, being £11,414,000, amounted to 57 per cent of the total exports from Denmark.

Switzerland, another small country like Denmark, is using co-operation as a very effective means to better the conditions of the poorer classes. The report above quoted states:—

‘The imposing roll is really to be accounted for by the fact that the law is distinctly favourable to the formation of societies under the co-operative name, being elastic and applicable to almost every variety of common action. Nevertheless, the majority of the 4,400 societies spoken of may be looked upon as genuinely co-operative.

‘Among the various groups composing the total given, the largest, in point of numbers, is that of societies placed in the service of agriculture, and formed to assist in the production or else the sale of agricultural produce. Foremost among such are the co-operative “cheeseries,” numbering by themselves, about the middle of 1903, 1,536. Next follow, at a rather respectable distance, co-operative distilleries, societies for the sale of fruit or products of the same, wine and honey, and for pasturing cattle in common on the high Alps. Taking all agricultural co-operative societies together, we find that there are about 1,700 or 1,800.’

And further on:—

‘Next to this class of societies for common sale of products, follow, in point of numerical strength, the societies formed to serve for the common supply of goods or the common utilization of means of production. There are about 1,200 of these. Of that number, about 500 are agricultural, rendering their members excellent service in the common purchase of fertilizers, feeding stuffs, implements, seeds, &c.’

And these telling examples could be multiplied if necessary, for Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and other countries have many thousands of such societies giving as good results and promising much larger ones in the future. Even Canada, although having no general law to foster their establishment, has already some co-operative associations doing well, as proved by the evidence adduced. This shows what could be expected from the working of a good law.

CO-OPERATION IN THE BARRACKS.

In order to give an idea of the almost unlimited possibilities of co-operation, I may be perhaps allowed to quote the interesting paragraph that follows, borrowed from the monthly review ‘L’Emancipation,’ published at Nîmes, France, by M. de Boyve, a veteran of this movement in that country:—

‘We knew, thanks to “l’Union Militaire” of Italy, the advantages and benefits that co-operation procures for the officers. Two recent communications inform us what co-operation can accomplish for the soldier.

‘One comes from M. Chéron, Under Secretary of State in the War Department:—

‘The other day,’ said he, speaking from the tribune of the House (sitting of December 10th, 1906), in a visit made to the infantry barracks at Havre and at Fort Saint-Adresse, ‘I found, working in the most satisfactory way, co-operative associations for consumption. I took the trouble to acquaint myself with their tariff. One can have a bock of beer for five centimes (one cent), a cup of excellent coffee, five